(b) looking to the poor railway network in the State whether Government is going to accept the projects to link Bhiwadi to Delhi-Ahmedabad broad gauge railway line, Jaisalmer to Sanu Jaisalmer to Barmer, and Jaipur to Nathdwara for industrial, mining and tourisrr development of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Rajasthan has the second largest route kilometres among all the states of the country. Projects for new line are sanctioned based upon their financial viability, operational advantages, regional development, socio-economic considerations, etc.

An updating survey for a 27 km long new line linking Bhiwadi to Delhi-Ahmedabad BG line has been completed recently. As per the survey report, the cost of this new line has been assessed as Rs. 153.73 crore. North Western Railway has been asked to review the cost of the proposed new line. A separate survey for Jaisalmer-Sanu (25 kms) new Broad Gauge line has not been taken up.

The survey for Jaisalmer-Barmer as a part of Jaisalmer-Kandla had been completed in 2005-06 and project was not taken up. Jaipur-Nathdwara is already connected by railway line *via* Ajmer-Marwar and *via* Ajmer-Chittaurgarh-Mavli.

Vacant posts of safety personnel

†2574. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many posts of safety personnel are lying vacant in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as a result of acute shortage of safety men, the number of rail accidents is increasing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government is going to fill up these vacant posts immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) As on 31.3.09, 89024 safety related posts are lying vacant.

(c) and (d) The number of consequential train accidents have declined over the years. As regards filling up of the vacant posts, the same is a continuous process and the policy of railway administration is to fill up all available vacant posts promptly as per laid down procedure.

Augmenting trains in North-Eastern Railway

2575. SHRI SABIR ALI:
SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need for augmenting train services in North-Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the details of the augmentation proposed to be made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Augmentation of train services is an on-going process. In the Railway Budget 2009-10, introduction of 8 pairs of new train services, extension of 2 pairs and increase in frequency of 2 pairs of existing trains has been announced catering to the areas covered under the North Eastern Railway.

Ticket checking in running trains

2576. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:
SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ticket checking in running trains has decreased considerably;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made to intensify the ticket checking in running trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the year 2009-10 (upto October,09), 9.61 lakh checks have been conducted against ticketless/irregular travel, as against 9.11 lakh checks during the corresponding period of last year.

(c) Regular/surprise checks are conducted in association with Railway Magistrates and Police against ticketless/irregular travel. These checks are monitored by officers at various levels and intensified during peak rush and festival periods. Besides, Intensive Check Posts have been set up at important stations to curb ticketless travel in unreserved segments. In addition, campaigns are also launched through various media to educate the public about the consequences of travelling without tickets. To deter ticketless/irregular travel, the minimum penalty has also been enhanced from Rs.50/- to Rs. 250/- with effect from 01.07.2004.

Trains between Mathura and Kanpur

2577. SHRI SABIR ALI:
SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trains presently operating between Mathura and Kanpur *via* Kasganj and Farrukhabad; and

(b) the steps being taken to provide more trains on that sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) At present, there is no direct train service between Mathura and Kanpur *via* Kasganj-Farrukhabad. However, a direct train service between Mathura and Kanpur *via* Kasganj & Farrukhabad would become available upon the introduction of the proposed 5107/5108 Mathura-Chhapra Express, which will be introduced during the current financial year.